

Application No.: 09/677,131
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REMARKS

Claims 1-17 remain pending in the application, but upon entry of the above-proposed amendments, claims 1, 9, and 17 will be cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 2, 8, and 10 will be amended. Entry of these amendments and favorable reconsideration are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The indication that claims 2-7 and 10-16 define patentable subject matter is noted with appreciation. In response, claims 2 and 10 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, these claims as well as the claims 3-7 and 11-16 which depend from claims 2 and 10, respectively, are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 8, and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Gilhousen (U.S. Patent No. 5,603,096). However, upon entry of these amendments, claims 1 and 9 will be cancelled, thereby rendering moot the rejection of these claims. Furthermore, it is proposed to amend claim 8 to now depend from newly independent claim 2. Since claim 2 should now be in condition for allowance (see discussion above), claim 8 will also be allowable for at least this reason.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that the above amendments be entered, and that the rejection of claims 1, 8, and 9 under Section 102(b) be withdrawn.


Claim 17, is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Moon (U.S. Patent No. 6,671,266) in view of Gilhousen. However, upon entry of these amendments, claim 17 will be cancelled, thereby rendering the rejection of this claim moot. It is therefore respectfully requested that the amendment to claim 17 be entered, and that the rejection under Section 103(a) be withdrawn.

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It is believed that, upon entry of these amendments, the application will be in condition for allowance. It is therefore requested that the proposed amendments be entered, and that the application be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,
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